

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 L-02 DRC-01 RSC-01 /029 W

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P 311611Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6389

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5333

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, CI

SUBJ: POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL IN SANTIAGO

REF: SANTIAGO 5220

1. SUMMARY: CONSULTATIONS ON ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT LED TO SOLUTION. GOC REPRESENTATIVES PRESENTED NON-NEGOTIABLE POSITION ON ST. GEORGE'S TO HOLY CROSS REPRESENTATIVES. HOLY CROSS HAS WITHDRAWN PRIESTS FROM SCHOOL UNTIL AT LEAST END OF YEAR AND BELIEVES THERE IS GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT GOC WILL EXPELL SOME PRIESTS. HOLY CROSS WILL MAKE DECISION ON ACTIVITIES NEXT YEAR AFTER DECEMBER 31. END SUMMARY

2. FATHER LEWERS HAS REPORTED TO US AS FOLLOWS: WORKING GROUP MEETING UNDER SPONSORSHIP BISHOP VALICH ANTICIPATED PARA FIVE REFTEL TURNED OUT NOT TO BE A NEGOTIATION BUT THE PRESENTATION BY THE RECTOR-DELEGATE OF A NON-NEGOTIABLE GOC POSITION AS FOLLOWS:

A) PERSONNEL: (1) FATHER WHELAN TO BE REMOVED AS SCHOOL RECTOR IMMEDIATELY AND TO DEPART SCHOOL AT YEAR END; (2) FATHER PLASKER TO BE RELIEVED AS TEACHER IMMEDIATELY AND TO LEAVE SCHOOL AT YEAR END; (3) SEMINARIAN NEICHARDT TO LEAVE SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY; AND (4) TWO NUNS TO BE RELIEVED OF ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES IMMEDIATELY BUT PERMITTED TO TEACH UNTIL YEAR

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END AT WHICH TIME FINAL DECISION TO BE MADE CONCERNING THEM.

B) GOC INTERVENTION UNDER RECTOR-DELEGATE TO CONTINUE AT LEAST UNTIL YEAR END.

C) FATHER LEWERS AUTHORIZED TO APPOINT VICE RECTOR SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY GOC RECTOR-DELEGATE.

3. THIS POSITION WAS SUBSEQUENTLY COMMUNICATED INFORMALLY TO FATHER LEWERS WHO INDICATED INFORMALLY THAT HOLY CROSS RESPONSES WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:

A) ALL PRIESTS WOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM ADMINISTRATIVE AND TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS TO YEAR END.

B) TWO PRIESTS WOULD BE APPOINTED TO LOOK AFTER HOLY CROSS PROPERTY INTERESTS.

C) BETWEEN NOW AND YEAR END THE CONGREGATION WOULD FORMULATE PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR.

D) A DECISION CONCERNING NEXT YEAR WOULD BE MADE AFTER DECEMBER 31.

4. HOLY CROSS CONCLUDED FURTHER APPEALS OF GOC DECISION POINTLESS SINCE JUNTA PRESIDENT PINOCHET HAS INFORMED SECRETARY OF CHILEAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCE THAT HE HAD REVIEWED PROBLEM AND AGREED THAT CERTAIN PRIESTS WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE ST. GEORGES'S SCHOOL.

5. BOTH THE GOCE POSITION AND THE HOLY CROSS RESPONSES WERE SUBSEQUENTLY EXCHANGED IN WRITING.

6. THE HOLY CROSS PRIESTS HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM THE SCHOOL. THE RECTOR-DELEGATE MOVED INTO THE RECTOR'S OFFICE ON OCT 29 AND DISCHARGED EIGHT LAY TEACHERS THE SAME DAY.

7. FATHER LEWERS BELIEVES THERE IS A GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT THE GOC MAY YET EXPELL THREE HOLY CROSS PRIESTS FROM CHILE.

8. FATHER LEWERS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EMBASSY'S HELP
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AND FOR OUR OFFER TO CONTINUE TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE. HE SAID THAT HE AND FATHER WARNER WOULD DEPART CHILE AFTERNOON OCT 30 BUT WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH US FROM U.S.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANTIA05333
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS DAVIS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973102/aaaaabaj.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: SANTIAGO 5220
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <07 MAR 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL IN SANTIAGO
TAGS: SCUL, CI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005